

Julie Cozzi

From: Weishahn [weis@aptalaska.net]
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2013 4:02 PM
To: Mark Earnest
Cc: Debra Schnabel; Jerry Lapp; Norm Smith; Steve Vick; Joanne Waterman; Dave Berry; Stephanie Scott; Julie Cozzi
Subject: Heli-ski map change proposal

May 31, 2013

Haines Borough Manager Mark Earnest,

I am taking this opportunity to make a few comments and submit a heli-ski map change request. While the heli-ski companies continue to rack up heli-ski map area violations, including lack of reporting flight path violations on the bi-monthly reports, the lack of sufficient monitoring of GPS data leaves the public to assume there are many more violations that go undetected. There is an on-going crisis in heli-ski monitoring for compliance by the borough that would be greatly improved if the GPS data were available for public review.

Last year changes were made to the map in response to heli-ski companies landing outside the map boundaries and the claims such as, 'we have always used that run.' This has led to heli-ski map boundary creep. My primary recommendation is that no changes be made to the current map at this time and that the borough fully assess heli-ski company compliance with the map and flight path requirements. Adequate monitoring would include checking on reported violations and at least 2 spot checks per company per month, the results of which would be reported on the borough website at the end of each heli-ski month. If violations are found, subsequent spot checks for that company would be 4 per month. In addition, the day before and after any confirmed violations would also be checked. Adding areas to the map at this time is not appropriate given the poor track record of the two operating companies for compliance and safety, and lack of adequate monitoring by the borough.

That being said, if changes to the map are recommended by the work group, I ask that the areas of Jarvis Glacier and Little Jarvis Glacier be removed from the heli-ski map. Map boundary and flight corridor violations have been documented for the last two years using GPS data. In prior years, I reported many flight path deviations and possible landing violations but these were not verified for lack of GPS data. The Jarvis and Little Jarvis Glaciers are located near residences across the Klehini River and also contain or are adjacent to significant moderate to high levels of predicted mountain goat use areas. (see predicted levels of mountain goat use map, Kevin White, ADF&G, email to Darsie Culbeck, Sept. 7, 2012)

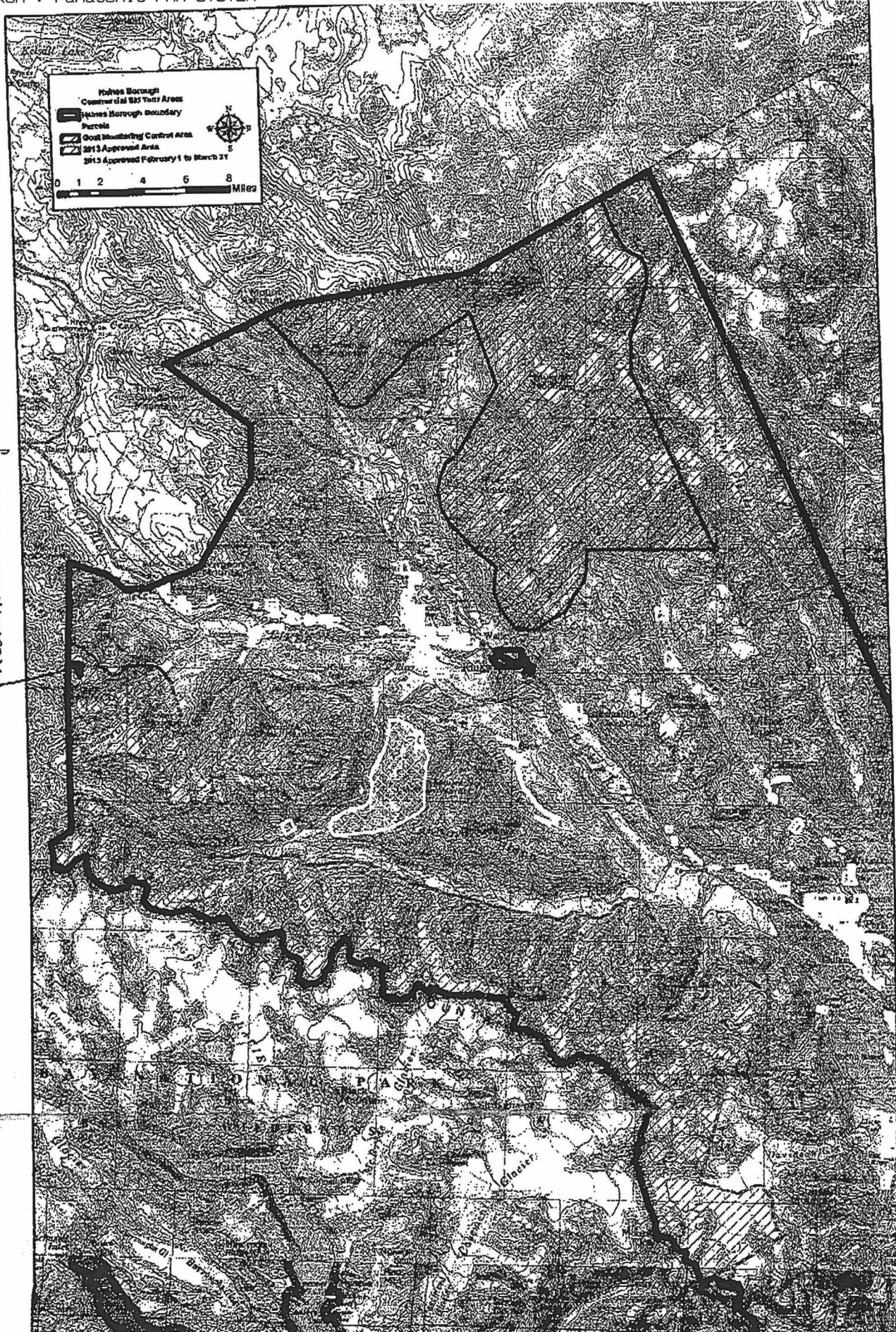
Please see the heli-ski map change proposal I have submitted by fax. Thank you for considering these comments. It is my hope that improvements are made in heli-ski monitoring and fines sufficient to be considered a deterrent are levied for violations.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Weishahn
HC 60 Box 3977
Haines, AK 99827

FROM : Panasonic FAX SYSTEM

PHONE NO. :

Jan. 01 1994 12:02AM P1



Carolyn Weiskahn - Heli-ski map change proposal 5-31-13